It has also been decided to connect less accessible towns of North Eastern States through helicopter service, to be operated by Pawan Hans Ltd., initially on a limited scale, with two helicopters, to serve interior areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Air India agreement with foreign airlines for Haj pilgrims

7719. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has entered into an agreement with a foreign Airlines to send Haj pilgrims to Jeddah and back in 1995.

(b) if so, what is the name of that Airline, what amount in terms of Indian rupee that company had mentioned in the quotation to be charged per head;

(c) for what amount in terms of Indian rupee per pilgrim Air India had contracted to pay to this foreign Airlines; and

(d) what are the details of the overheads earmarked by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India has entered into an agreement with M/s. Tower Air to ferry Haj pilgrims to and from India. M/s. Tower Air had quoted Rs. 1,87,425 per block hour covering Aircraft hire, Crew, all Maintenance support, Hull/third party and Insurance and fuel with condition of guaranteed utilisation of 500 block hours in a month. M/s. Tower Air was not required to quote the fare per head.

(c) The amount payable to M/s. Tower Air works out to Rs. 14962.50 per pilgrim for round trip.

(d) The expenditure of overheads (passenger legal liability insurance, landing, handling, navigation, catering on board, staff costs and other allowances) to be incurred by Air India is approximately Rs. 7.17 crores.

Private airlines operating on profit earning routes

7720. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for the private Airlines being allowed to operate mainly on profit earing routes; and

(b) the reasons for they not being asked to operate their Airlines on uneconomic routes along with the profit earning routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In accordance with the guidelines issued on 1.3.94, the scheduled domestic operators are required to deploy at least 10 percent of the capacity deployed on trunk/brand routes, on routes in the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. Of the capacity so deployed, at least 10 percent has to be within the region itself.

Projects for Development of Tourist Centres in Orissa

7721. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of projects under implementation in different tourist centres in Orissa;

(b) whether there is a need to expedite the Completion of these projects in order to attract the domestic as well as foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the step taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following projects